Title: Need to chalk out remedial measures to safeguard the interests of coconut growers whose crops have been affected due to disease and continued drought in Tumkur district, Karnataka. − Laid.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (TUMKUR): During last 4 years, there have been no rain in the State of Karnataka particularly in Tumkur district. The ground water level has gone down upto 600-700ft. The coconut trees are affected with deadly disease like black mite/Nusi Roga which is destroying the entire crop in Tumkur as well as in neighbouring districts i.e. Kolar, Bangalore rural district, Part of Chikmagalur and Hassan. The coconut, nuts are reduced to very small size. The coconut trees become very thin and only 4-5 coconuts per bunch survive and that too in a very bad shape. Agriculturists who are purely depending upon the coconut gardens are suffering a lot and have no other source of livelihood.

We have chalked out some project to protects the sufferings of agriculturists like cane growers, coffee growers, the package has to be promulgated in the interest of coconut agriculturists.

I therefore urge upon the Government to take immediate step to assess the alarming situation and take precautionary measures to eradicate the deadly disease of Coconut trees and grant compensation tot he coconut agriculturists by assessing the loss suffered by them.